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Message Text

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13
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 AEC-11 SCI-06 DOTE-00

DRC-01 /068 W
---------- 099804
R 270700Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5103

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BBAK, GB
SUBJ: ASECNA REQUEST FOR INFO ON LIGHTER THAN AIR CRAFT

1. SUMMARY: DIRECTOR OF ASECNA IN GABON, MR. FRANCK, CAME TO SEE ME DECEMBER 26 TO REQUEST INFO ON LIGHTER THAN AIR CRAFT. END SUMMARY.

2. FRANCK SAID HE HAD FOLLOWED FOR SOME YEARS U.S. RESEARCH IN ABOVE FIELD AND BELIEVED IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY PRACTICAL AND ECONOMICAL IN GABON. HE SAID ALL INFO FROM U.S. HAD BECOME CLASSIFIED AND UNAVAILABLE AS OF ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO BECAUSE U.S. PLANNING USE ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PROPULSION.

3. FRANCK ASKED IF I WOULD INQUIRE TO FIND OUT IF ANY RECENT INFO AVAILABLE. EVEN IF ATOMIC ASPECT STILL SECRET, HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFO AVAILABLE ON GENERAL DESIGNS OF CRAFTS. HE SAID LATEST INFO HE HAD INDICATED U.S. STUDYING CRAFTS WITH LOAD CARRYING CAPACITIES FROM FIVE TO THREE HUNDRED TONS WITH LATTER ABLE TO CRUISE AT 300 KILOMETERS AN HOUR. FRANCK SAID HIS CALCULATIONS SHOWED GABON WOULD BE EXCELLENT COUNTRY FOR INTERNAL USE SUCH CRAFT IN VIEW VERY BAD ROAD NETWORK AND LARGE BULK ITEMS WHICH COULD BE TRANSPORTED (INCLUDING RAILROAD CON-
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STRUCTION). FRANCK ESTIMATED THAT COST PER TON TRANSPORTED

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WOULD BE ROUGHLY EQUAL TO COST BY ROAD IN GABON AND FOUR
TIMES LESS THAN COST BY PLANE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY
INFO AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD BE PASSED ON TO ASECNA.

5. DECLASSIFY ON RECEIPT.
MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LIBREV01168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973125/aaaaadqx.tel
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
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Status: NATIVE
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